

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 PM-04 DODE-00 EA-07

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /044 W
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P 041835Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4636

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6006

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, OVIP (MERINO, ADMIRAL J.)

SUBJ: POSSIBLE INVITATION TO JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERINO TO
VISIT U.S.

REF: FIMBRES, ARA/BC, LETTER TO AMBASSADOR OF AUGUST 22

1. IT IS PLAIN FROM ADMIRAL MERINO'S LETTERS TO ADMIRAL
HOLLOWAY AND TO ME, ANNOUNCING HIS TRIP TO KOREA AT
INVITATION OF KOREAN CNO, WITH STOPS IN LOS ANGELES AND
HAWAII, THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS THE COUNTRY TEAM VIEW, WHICH I
SHARE, THAT IT WOULD BE INADVISABLE FOR DOD TO EXTEND AN
INVITATION TO ADMIRAL MERINO AT THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH
ADMIRAL MERINO IS CHILEAN CNO, HIS POSITION AS MEMBER OF
THE GOVERNING JUNTA INVESTS HIM WITH A POLITICAL ROLE AT
THE HIGHEST LEVEL HERE. GIVEN PREVAILING ATTITUDES IN
U.S. TOWARD THE GOC, WE BELIEVE THAT LIMITED POSITIVE
EFFECTS OF INVITATION WOULD NOT WARRANT RISK OF REACTION
CRITICAL OF USG AND PREJUDICIAL TO U.S.-CHILEAN RELATIONS
WHICH MERINO INVITATION TO WASHINGTON COULD PROVOKE.

3. BY SEPTTEL WE ARE REQUESTING APPROPRIATE COURTESIES
AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ADMIRAL MERINO AT LOS ANGELES
AND HAWAII. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ADMIRAL MERINO WOULD LIKE
TO MAKE A "REST STOP" AT HAWAII. WE SHALL REPORT AS SOON
AS WE CAN DETERMINE APPROXIMATE DATES FOR THIS STOP.

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MEANWHILE WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE

POSSIBILITY OF CINCPAC'S EXTENDING HOSPITALITY TO ADMIRAL
MERINO IN HAWAII. THIS WOULD HAVE MANY OF THE POSITIVE
EFFECTS OF AN INVITATION TO WASHINGTON WITHOUT THE
VISIBILITY AND WITHOUT VISIT BEING RESULT OF U.S.
INITIATIVE.
POPPER

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